

A TRIBUTE TO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding businessman, Robert Scott, on receiving New Hampshire Entrepreneur of the Year. His outstanding business practices and understanding have no doubt brought him to this place.

Scott cofounded Octave Communications in 1998 with audio conferencing in mind. Since then, the systems that have been produced include the newest model that allows for wireless voice conferencing. With many more options available Octave offers browser-based scheduling, management and control for reservation-less conferencing over traditional public switched telephone networks and Voice over Internet Protocol Networks. Scott's effort has paid off in the growth of an up and coming company that is sure to make its mark on New Hampshire.

It is always my distinct honor and privilege to represent fine businessmen like Robert Scott in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO ED LAWRENCE, WILDLIFE ARTIST WORKING TO HELP U.S. SOLDIERS

• Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, now, more than ever, Americans are expressing their patriotism. Patriotism means different things to different people, but for some, like Ed Lawrence, patriotism comes through his "determination" to help others.

Mr. Lawrence, a wildlife artist from McGregor, IA, is a retired game warden and a U.S. Air Force veteran. After hearing President George W. Bush's address to the Nation following the September 11 attacks, Lawrence was moved into taking action. Although unsure of what contribution he could make, he retreated to his studio and began to sketch. Out of his sketches rose images of the American bald eagle with the Stars and Stripes waving behind it. These heart-felt images became the foundation for Mr. Lawrence's work, "Determination."

With "Determination," Mr. Lawrence was able to give back to the nation. At the end of last year, Mr. Lawrence devoted his energy to the Grant Wood Chapter of the Red Cross in Cedar Rapids. From the proceeds of his "Determination" prints, the group was able to pay the shipping costs of care packages sent to troops on hardship assignments in Saudi Arabia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Kuwait and Uzbekistan. The care packages were meant to send a bit of home abroad and included puzzles, games, footballs, microwave popcorn, toiletries, gum and magazines, among other items to boost the troops' morale.

In addition to covering the costs of sending out the care packages, Mr. Lawrence created 911 numbered prints as a special tribute to U.S. troops. He

donates these prints to various community group fundraisers. The limited edition prints go to groups willing to sell a print in support of the Grant Wood Chapter's project.

U.S. Armed Force bases that receive donations also receive a special copy of "Determination." Numbered prints were reserved for Veterans Administration hospitals in Iowa City and Des Moines, and a copy was presented on the floor of the Iowa House at the Iowa State Capitol.

Mr. Lawrence is hoping to take the project nationwide and is working with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the American Red Cross to do just that. He and his wife, Chris, have made appearances nationwide to promote the project and received warm responses, as they should.

The "determination," of Ed Lawrence to spread patriotism and promote morale nationwide and across the seas has lifted the spirits of troops and civilians alike. Thank you, Mr. Lawrence, for setting such a positive and patriotic example for fellow Iowans and Americans to follow.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2143. An act to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4800. An act to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

H.R. 4823. An act to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the exclusion from Federal income tax for restitution received by victims of the Nazi Regime.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2143. An act to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent.

S. 2600. A bill to ensure the continued financial capacity of insurers to provide coverage for risks from terrorism.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. REID):

S. 2600. A bill to ensure the continued financial capacity of insurers to provide coverage for risks from terrorism; read the first time.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2601. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on thiophanate-methyl; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 677

At the request of Mr. BREAU, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financing to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

S. 813

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase payments under the medicare program to Puerto Rico hospitals.

S. 917

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 1483

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1483, a bill to amend Family Violence Prevention and Services Act to reduce the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking on the lives of youth and children and provide appropriate services for children